

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 142647

21

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01

IO-10 MC-02 ACDA-05 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK/NH

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

NEA/INS:DKUX (DRAFT)

PM/SAS:DJAMES (DRAFT)

OSD/ISA/NESA:RKUBAL (DRAFT)

DOD/DSAA:COL. R ZAPATA (DRAFT)

NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

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R 181538Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PK

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI REQUEST FOR 30 SURPLUS M-47 TANKS

REF: (A) STATE 79696, (B) ODRP 300930Z MAY 75,

(C) ODRP 131000Z MAR 75

1. SINCE REFTEL A SENT, PAKISTANI DAO HERE HAS BEEN PURSUING QUESTION OF AVAILABILITY OF TANK ASSETS DIRECTLY WITH DSAA. U.S. ARMY HAS NOW LOCATED 54 M-47 TANKS IN BELGIUM WHICH HAVE BEEN DECLARED REDISTRIBUTABLE MAP PROPERTY. ARMY IS PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLE 30 OF THESE TANKS TO PAKISTAN AT FMS PRICE OF DOLS 191,940. PAKISTAN DAO HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO INSPECT TANKS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 142647

2. SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE CONCEPT OF "TURRETLESS TANKS", WHICH WE PRESUMED COULD NOT BE RECONDITIONED AND USED AS LETHAL WEAPON, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LOST. U.S. ARMY RATES TANKS AVAILABLE IN BELGIUM AS IN "R-4" CONDITION, WHICH

MEANS THEY ARE IN POOR CONDITION, REQUIRE MAJOR REPAIR AND WOULD BE OF DOUBTFUL RELIABILITY EVEN IF REPAIRED. WE DO

NOT KNOW CONDITION OF MAIN GUN AND TURRETS OF THESE TANKS, THOUGH PRESUMABLY THEY ALL ARE FITTED WITH SOME SORT OF TURRET AND GUN. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT SOME OR EVEN ALL COULD BE PUT INTO WORKING ORDER.

3. IN ADDITION WE ARE BOTHERED BY NUMBERS. WE UNDERSTAND PAKISTANI AND IRANIANS ORIGINALLY TALKED IN TERMS OF RETROFITTING 300 TANKS, BUT WHEN FINAL AGREEMENT SIGNED PAKISTANIS ONLY CAME UP WITH 270 TANKS AVAILABLE. TANKS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION COULD BE MEANT AS REPLACEMENTS FOR 30 PAKISTANI TANKS WHICH NOT WORTH RETROFITTING OR AS SOURCE OF CANNIBALIZED PARTS FOR M-47S NOW IN THE PAK INVENTORY.

4. WITHOUT JUDGING POLICY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE PREPARED TO SELL EITHER 30 M-47 TANKS IN WORKING CONDITION DIRECTLY TO PAKISTAN OR SPARE PARTS FOR 30 INOPERABLE TANKS, WE THINK PAKISTANI INTENTIONS REQUIRE CLARIFICATION. IF PAKISTANIS REITERATE DESIRE ONLY TO USE TANK CHASSIS AS PLATFORM FOR BRIDGING EQUIPMENT, WHAT MEASURES OR ASSURANCES ARE THEY PREPARED TO OFFER WHICH WOULD SATISFY QUESTIONS THIS TRANSFER MAY RAISE? KISSINGER

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